

Message Text

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S E C R E T RABAT 3658

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH FON MIN AUGUST 2

SUMMARY: FON MIN LARAKI AND I HAD TOUR D'HORIZON AUGUST 2, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE AUGUST 5 FOR MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON WITH SECY AND DEP SECY AUGUST 6. FON MIN EXPRESSED HOPE FOR PEACEFUL DIALOGUE WITH SPAIN, FELT MOROCCAN DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN HAD RECEIVED GOOD ARAB SUPPORT (EXCEPT FROM ALGERIA) FOR MOROCCAN EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS SPAIN, AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT MOROCCAN-FRENCH NEGOTIATIONS. ON AGENDA FOR WASHINGTON, HE FELT DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST QUESTION WOULD BE USEFUL BUT DID NOT FORESEE OTHER SUBJECTS IN ADDITION TO SAHARA UNLESS KING SO INSTRUCTS. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION FOLLOW.

1. SPANISH-MOROCCAN DIALOGUE. I NOTED SPANISH AMB HAD RETURNED FROM SPAIN WITH LETTER FROM FRANCO WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY PRESENTED TO KING JULY 27 AND THAT KING HAD CALLED IN SPANISH AMB JULY 30. LARAKI COMMENTED THAT MOROCCO HAD BEEN AND REMAINS IN FAVOR OF DIALOGUE

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WITH SPAIN. MOROCCO, HE UNDERLINED, HAD NOT INTENDED

TO PROVOKE SPAIN. MOROCCO WELL AWARE THAT DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS WITH SPAIN COULD CAUSE UNDESIRABLE IMBALANCE IN ENTIRE REGION. GOM COULD HAVE CITED SPAIN FOR VIOLATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS. WHILE SPAIN WOULD HAVE DENIED SUCH VIOLATION, CREATION OF "PHANTOM STATE" WAS NOT INTENTION OF UN, HE STRESSED.

2. LARAKI CONTINUED THAT REFERENDUM IN SPANISH SAHARA WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO MOROCCO, PROVIDED THAT TROOPS WITHDRAW FROM SAHARA AND REFUGEES ALLOWED TO RETURN. LARAKI RECALLED THAT WHILE KING'S JULY 4 LETTER TO FRANCO HAD EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT ACTIONS CONTEMPLATED BY SPAIN IN SAHARA, WHICH MOROCCO COULD NOT ACCEPT, KING'S LETTER HAD ALSO VOICED HOPE FOR DIALOGUE WITH SPAIN. SAYING HE HAD THUS FAR NOT SPOKEN WITH ANY DIPLOMATS EXCEPT SPANISH AMB ABOUT LATEST FRANCO LETTER, HE CONFIDED THIS LETTER IN FACT CONCILIATORY AND THAT IT DID NOT CLOSE ANY DOORS. NEVERTHELESS, HE ADDED, MOROCCO HAD CONDUCTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN OVER PAST 4 YEARS AND NOW NEEDED TO KNOW MORE FACTS ABOUT SPANISH INTENTIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY FUTURE STEPS IN NEGOTIATIONS. MOROCCO READY TO USE EVERY PEACEFUL MEANS; WE ARE RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE AND RECOGNIZE DISEQUILIBRIUM COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT INTERESTS OF BOTH ARAB COUNTRIES AND WEST, LARAKI STATED.

3. MOROCCAN DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN. I ASKED DELICATELY WHERE CAMPAIGN CURRENTLY STOOD. LARAKI REPLIED THAT GOOD SUPPORT HAD THUS FAR BEEN RECEIVED FROM OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES EXCEPT ALGERIA ON "GENERAL PRINCIPLES" OF MOROCCAN POSITION. (I INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN OTHER ARABS FIRM ON ANTI-COLONIALISM, BUT STILL RESERVED ON MOROCCAN TERRITORIAL CLAIMS.) REPLYING TO MY QUESTION, LARAKI DID NOT SEE CLEARLY FUTURE EVOLUTION OF ALGERIAN POSITION. ALGERIA WAS NOT OPPOSING MOROCCO OUTRIGHT, HE NOTED, NOR DID IT HAVE TERRITORIAL CLAIM OF ITS OWN. LARAKI SPECULATED PERSONALLY THAT ALGERIA MIGHT BE USING SAHARA AS PLOY TO INDUCE MOROCCO TO RATIFY FRONTIER AGREEMENT. (HE SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT THIS WOULD EXPLAIN VAGUENESS OF ALGERIAN APPROACH ON SAHARA -- IF ALGERIA WERE UP TO
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SOMETHING MORE, IT WOULD BE MORE MILITANT.) LARAKI MENTIONED THAT MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH WOULD ARRIVE IN MOROCCO FROM ALGERIA ABOUT AUGUST 9 OR 10, WHICH WOULD PERMIT FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

4. MOROCCAN-FRENCH RELATIONS. LARAKI EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRANCE, MARKED BY FRENCH FON MIN SAUVAGNARGUES' VISIT

HERE AUG 1 FOR ONE-DAY MARATHON TALKS. LARAKI SAID THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAD BASICALLY SUCCEEDED. MOROCCO HAD MADE A MAJOR CONCESSION TO FRANCE IN ACCEPTING PRINCIPLE OF COMPENSATION FOR FRENCH-OWNED LANDS NATIONALIZED LAST YEAR. SAUVAGNARGUES RECOGNIZED AND APPRICIATED THIS CONCESSION, PARTICULARLY AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS FRENCH AMB IN TUNISIA, WHERE AGREEMENT ON SATISFACTORY COMPENSATION HAD NOT BEEN REACHED.

5. AGENDA FOR WASHINGTON TALKS. I ASKED WHETHER LARAKI WOULD RAISE OTHER ISSUES BESIDES SAHARA IN WASHINGTON. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH SECY ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTION, REFERRING TO SECY'S PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO KEEP MOROCCO INFORMED. HE ALSO NOTED ARAFAT HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN MOROCCO AND THAT SECY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN HEARING ABOUT THIS. OTHERWISE, LARAKI INDICATED, THERE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE OTHER SUBJECTS, UNLESS KING, WHOM HE SEEING LATER IN DAY, GAVE HIM FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.
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